



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 6/14/2002

GAIN Report #GM2010

Germany

Organic Products

Nitrofen Contamination - Update I

2002

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Report Highlights:

No additional Nitrofen contamination sources have been detected. However, a small amount of contaminated grain (72 tons of wheat) ended up in the conventional feed. The 400 farms that received this feed are not allowed to sell any products until residue checks have been made.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Berlin [GM1], GM

Nitrofen Contamination - Update I

On Wednesday, June 12, it became public that on December 12, 2001, 72 tons of Nitrofen contaminated wheat out of the storage facility in Malchin which is assumed to be the source for the contamination had been sold to a conventional - non-organic - feed mill in Malchin. This wheat was originally assumed to be organic wheat. Since it originated from a farm which is still in the conversion process to qualify for organic farming the wheat had to be re-labeled as conventional wheat and moved into the normal trade chain. These 72 tons were added to a bin of 6,000 tons of other wheat and then incorporated into nearly 50,000 tons of mixed feed. According to current knowledge these feeds have been sold to about 400 farms in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Niedersachsen, Brandenburg and Schleswig-Holstein. All these farms have been ordered not to sell any products any longer until they have been tested for Nitrofen. One of the involved farms is large scale hog producer with 65,000 hogs. This farm produces a weekly number of hogs of 1200 plus 1200 piglets. First test results of feeds from the Malchin mill have not shown any detectable Nitrofen residues.

Minister Kuenast expressed her satisfaction that no additional source of Nitrofen contamination appeared. She claims that the continuing detections of Nitrofen contaminated products confirm that German authorities are now successfully tracing any potentially contaminated products. Environment minister Juergen Tritin claims that the scandal is not a scandal of the food industry, it is rather a scandal of the lack of implementation of environment protection policies. Hazardous materials have not been properly destroyed and the location of contaminated buildings has not been effectively communicated.